



FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards

www.ffa.org

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN, 46268

Nursery Operations Placement

Example Application

PLACEMENT Proficiency

WISCONSIN



Place Label Here

CHAPTER #: WI0029
 STATE: WI
 Member ID #: 11111111

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Name of Proficiency Award Area

1. Name: Marcus J. Zondag
 2. Date of Birth: 07/07/1986 3. Age: 17
 4. Gender: X Male Female 5. Social Security #: 111-11-1111
 6. Address: (street/R.R./box no.) 315 Anywhere St.
 City: Anywhere State: Wisconsin Zip: 55555
 7. Home Telephone number (including area code): (555) 555-1111
 8. Name of Parents/Guardians 9. List Parents/Guardians Occupation Below:
 a. Father: Richard Zondag CEO-Anywhere Seed Company
 b. Mother: Barbara Zondag Teacher-Anywhere High School
 10. Complete FFA Chapter Name: Anywhere FFA
 11. Name of High School: Anywhere High School
 12. School Address: (street/RR./box no.) 110 Anywhere St.
 School City: Anywhere State: Wisconsin School Zip: 55555
 13. School Telephone Number (including area code): (555) 555-2222
 14. Chapter Advisor(s): Keith Gundlach
 15. Year FFA Membership Began: 1999
 16. Years of Agricultural Education Completed: 4.5
 17. Years of Agricultural Education Offered (grades 7-12) in high school last attended: 6
 18. Year in school at time of applying for the award: Senior
 19. If you have graduated from the high school, year graduated:
 20. State/National Dues paid? NO YES Yes

We have examined this application and find that the records are true, accurate, and complete. We hereby permit for publicity purposes, the use of any information included in this application with the exception of the following:

Candidate Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

In addition, we certify the applicant has achieved a satisfactory record of scholastic achievement.

Chapter Advisor Signature

 Superintendent or Principal Signature
 (indicate which)

The information contained in this application has been substantiated by an actual visit to the site of the applicant's supervised agricultural experience program.

Employer Signature (if applicable)

State Supervisor, Ag Ed, Signature

NOTICE: This application will not be returned by the National FFA Organization. Please make a copy for your records.

I. Performance Review

NURSERY OPERATIONS

A. Getting Started in this activity:

(15)

1. Briefly describe your SAE as it is related to this proficiency area. Describe how you started in this proficiency area. What interested and motivated you to begin?

My SAE as it relates to this proficiency involves my work at Anywhere Seed Company. The company is over 100 years old and was founded by my great grandfather. It has satellite stores in Somewhere, Over There, That-A-Way, and the home base in Anywhere. Future expansion is underway.

I have worked in the nursery since I was old enough to stay out of trouble. Much of the time was spent helping my father at no pay when I was younger. I liked what I was doing when I was helping and this increased my interest in the nursery as a possible long term goal for employment. My older brothers and sister worked at the nursery and this also increased my interest. There were times when the family worked together after hours on special projects and I enjoyed this activity.

When I started Agriculture classes, I became interested in the FFA and its program for awards regarding SAE's. My older brother was involved in this SAE and I wanted to follow his lead in accomplishing the same things. Being successful in an SAE was a very big motivating factor for me.

2. When you were planning your supervised agricultural experience in this proficiency area, what 2 or 3 goals and objectives did you plan to achieve at this point in your development?

I set a number of goals with respect to my involvement in this supervised agricultural experience area. In the FFA, I wanted to establish my SAE to the point where my FFA advisor would let me submit a proficiency on the state level. I also wanted to lay the ground work for my State FFA Degree as a senior and for my eventual American FFA Degree application.

At work, I set a goal of being able to work in all areas of the nursery without supervision. I wanted to be able to work on the sales floor in all areas from stocking the bins to selling and wrapping the purchases while providing instructions. In the field, I wanted to be able to run the irrigation system and to be involved in all areas of propagation. I also wanted to be able to identify disease and insect problems and to be able to treat them by myself. To do this, I wanted to obtain my pesticide applicator's license.

Additionally, I was interested in the marketing aspect of our company. Customer relations were important and I wanted to learn how to talk to customers and answer questions regarding planting, growing, pruning, and fertilization. Lastly, I wanted to be able to work in the garden center when needed.

B. Progress:

1. Describe any special advantages or disadvantages that had a major impact on your achievements in your supervised agricultural experience program.

I had a tremendous advantage in my SAE proficiency area. Anywhere Seed Company has been in the family nearly one hundred years and I have been a part of the operation or familiar with it since I can remember. I spent a lot of hours going to work with my father and grandfather and had an early idea of how things worked in the propagation areas. I was also comfortable in the sales areas as I watched family members and other familiar Anywhere people work there.

There were some minor disadvantages. When your father is the CEO, people take it for granted that you will get to work where and when you want. This was never the case as my father made sure I started at the bottom in each department and learned each area thoroughly before working in another area. Working with some peers from school who also worked at the nursery made me work harder to prove my abilities. Another disadvantage I had is the work hours after school in the spring. If I chose to work, I would work later on jobs that needed immediate attention beyond the work day at Anywhere. If I committed to work, I would miss some school activities at times. However, I never missed anything in which I was involved. My parents are very pro-education and insisted I get as much out of school as possible.

B. Progress (continued)

2. Briefly describe your placement in this proficiency area. (Include a description of the business/ farm, working conditions, size, number of employees, type of facilities, equipment available, etc.)

I work as a laborer for Anywhere Seed Company. I have held this job since I was old enough to work and have expectations more than others at some times because my family owns the business. Anywhere Seed Company has stores in Somewhere, Over There, That-A-Way, and Aywhere.

They also own a nursery in England and purchased a nursery in South Carolina two years ago. Additionally, a store is being planned for Someday in the near future.

The nursery employs as many as 250 people in Anywhere during the busy seasons, with more being employed in the spring than in the fall. Sales are on a gradual upswing each year. The company mails over two million catalogs each year and those sales are a major part of the company. High school students in school to work situations help with orders here on the computers in the evening. Working conditions are very good and my hours are flexible, with school hours involving activities and studying having priority over work.

3. How has your position description and/or responsibilities changed during the time of your placement?

I am classified the same as all general employees and paid by the hour. I have been given more responsibility in the last two years and expect this to continue as I become more involved in the nursery and its different departments.

I assist with training some new employees if they are working in the same department as me. Working in sales has improved my communication skills, both on the written and spoken level. I am experienced enough in some areas that I work alone there unsupervised if need be.

C. Analysis/Evaluation of Program

1. Describe your level of achievement and progress towards your goals (such as skills, scope, etc.) in this award area as related to the goals and objectives described on page 2, question 2.

I have made very good progress toward accomplishing my goals. My SAE is solid and my record book is up to date. I am applying for state proficiency recognition for the second time, and was ranked third gold last year. This SAE was a major part of my State FFA Degree last month, and eventually, will be part of my American FFA Degree.

My skills in the nursery are improving every year. I am becoming skilled in propagation, can work on the sales floor for perennials and answer all questions by the customers, am able to run our irrigation system, and often work in some areas of the nursery without supervision. Additionally, I have taken my pesticide certification test and am waiting to hear the results. This will make me a more valuable employee and may provide an edge for me when I go to college and apply for work in the greenhouse. Finally, I am more aware of the financial aspect of our company and enjoy talking to and helping customers.

2. Describe the personal goals, educational goals, and career goals you would like to achieve in the next ten years.

In ten years, I would like to be a partner in J. W. Jung Seed Company. It is growing and I think there will be a place for me, if not in Randolph, then as a manager of one of the other stores in the state. My work in all areas of the nursery and a college degree in Horticulture with a minor in business will benefit me tremendously in this goal. At this time I believe I will attend college in Wisconsin, either at UW-Madison, UW-River Falls, or UW-Platteville.

I would like to be married in ten years. Family is important to me and I have had a good Christian upbringing which has given me some good values.

I want to own my own home, preferably a starter home that I can fix and later sell. I have an interest in home renovation and this type of home would benefit me as well as be a good investment.

II. Scope, Income and Expense Summary for : NURSERY OPERATIONS
 Placement and Research Experimentation Type Supervised Agricultural Experience Program

(20)

Year	Major Job Title Type of Work and/or Activities completed	Total Hours Worked			Gross Earnings (D)	Total Expenditures (E)	Net Earnings (F)**
		Unpaid (A)	Paid (B)	Total (C)*			
Mo/Day/Yr 07/01/1999 to Dec. 31 1999 (Year)	Anywhere Seed Company - I started by	31.0	10.0	41.0	\$50	\$0	\$50
	helping repot annuals from trays into			0.0			\$0
	selling trays.			0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
Totals for Year 1		31.0	10.0	41.0	\$50	\$0	\$50
Jan 1, to Dec. 31 2000 (Year)	Anywhere Seed Company - I continued	7.0	281.0	288.0	\$1,644	\$0	\$1,644
	working with annuals and also			0.0			\$0
	assisted with digging perennials and			0.0			\$0
	bare root trees.			0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
Totals for Year 2		7.0	281.0	288.0	\$1,644	\$0	\$1,644
Jan 1, to Dec. 31 2001 (Year)	Anywhere Seed Company-I added the	21.0	396.0	417.0	\$2,456	\$0	\$2,456
	ability to work with our irrigation			0.0			\$0
	system and maintained all previous			0.0			\$0
	duties.			0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
Totals for Year 3		21.0	396.0	417.0	\$2,456	\$0	\$2,456
Jan 1, to Dec. 31 2002 (Year)	Anywhere Seed Company - I continued	17.0	452.0	469.0	\$2,802	\$0	\$2,802
	all previous duties and started to			0.0			\$0
	work on the sales floor and in the			0.0			\$0
	garden center. I also began to learn			0.0			\$0
	how to make plant labels.			0.0			\$0
Totals for Year 4		17.0	452.0	469.0	\$2,802	\$0	\$2,802
Jan 1, to Dec. 31 2003 (Year)	Anywhere Seed Company - I continued	31.0	495.0	526.0	\$3,218	\$0	\$3,218
	in all previous duties and learned			0.0			\$0
	more about the marketing.			0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
Totals for Year 5		31.0	495.0	526.0	\$3,218	\$0	\$3,218
Jan 1, to Dec. 31 2004 (Year)				0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
				0.0			\$0
Totals for Year 6		0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTALS		107	1,634	1,741	\$10,170	\$0	\$10,170

* Columns (A) plus (B) = (C)

** Columns (D) minus (E) = (F)

III. Balance Sheet

NURSERY OPERATIONS
(5)

ASSETS & INVESTMENTS	Beginning Value on Date Entered Ag (A)	Ending Value at End of Last Completed Record Year (B)
1. Current/Operating Assets		
a. Cash on-hand, checking and savings	\$2,569	\$4,489
b. Cash value - bonds, stocks, life insurance	\$0	\$2,202
c. Notes & accounts receivable	\$0	\$0
d. Total Current/Operating Inventory (all other current assets)	\$164	\$472
2. Total Current/Operating Assets (1a+1b+1c+1d)	\$2,733	\$7,163
3. Non-Current/Capital Assets	\$226	\$706
4. Total Assets (2+3)	\$2,959	\$7,869

LIABILITIES		
5. Current/Operating Liabilities (notes payable)	\$0	\$0
6. Non-Current/Capital Liabilities	\$0	\$0
7. Total Liabilities (5+6)	\$0	\$0

8. NET WORTH (4 minus 7)	\$2,959	\$7,869
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SUMMARY OF SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS		
9. Earnings from this proficiency area	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$10,170
10. Other SAE earning NOT from this area	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$0
11. Earnings from non-SAE activities	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$391
12. Income other than earnings	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$39
13. Total Earnings (9+10+11+12)	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$10,600
14. Use of Funds	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
a. Total educational expenses	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$0
b. Total other personal expenses	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$1,722
15. Total use of funds (14a+14b)	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$1,722

IV. Skills and Activities

NURSERY OPERATIONS

A. Skills

(25)

List your top six placement skills and give a brief description of each one and its contribution to the success of your supervised agricultural experience program.

1. Skill Number One.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I fill bins with perennials which customers purchase each spring and fall in the sales room.	On the job training and in agriculture classroom.	157 hours

Description of Skill:

Fall, and especially spring, are extremely busy times for Anywhere Seed Company, with respect to sales and income. The sales made during this time are a large part of the company's income. We have a selection of about one hundred perennials on hand for sale and they are placed in bins for the customer to hand select. I fill bins as they begin to empty by bringing up perennials from the coolers. They were dug and trimmed and placed in cold storage to keep them dormant until sold. I select species by the tag on them, but am able to recognize most of the species in the dormant stage without their tags. Correctly filling the bins is extremely important and all tags do need to be read. We do not want a customer getting a species of grapes that have seeds when seedless grapes are what they wanted to purchase. I assist with training new help in this area.

2. Skill Number Two.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I can do pruning on selected species to shape them for selling.	On the job training and in agriculture class.	118 hours

Description of Skill:

Pruning is important at Anywhere. We prune actively growing as well as dormant plants. Perennial shrubs and trees are root pruned at sale time and/or customers are given instructions for the process. Pruning the actively growing plants helps shape them and makes them more attractive for buyers in the spring. Most plants we prune are shrubs, but some shrubs are pruned to encourage growth. The most critical area is the leader (top growing point). On soft wood trees such as silver maple, most leaders freeze and die over winter. Trees need to be pruned at the top to let only one leader grow back the next summer. I was taught how to prune by my father and grandfather and can assist new employees in the proper method of pruning all bare root trees and most perennials.

3. Skill Number Three.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I have a perfect safety record at work in all areas of the nursery.	On the job training at work and in agriculture class.	68 hours

Description of Skill:

Safety is important in all areas of my work. I need to work around equipment such as tractors and irrigation, pesticides, and handle hoes, shears, and knives.

All machinery has regular safety checks and is well maintained. This lowers any problems that might occur. I also use sharp shears which lowers problems with cuts and makes my work easier. No safety problems mean I haven't missed any work due to injury and that I have not damaged any equipment or machinery.

I am very aware of pesticide safety and took my pesticide certification test on February 5 of this year. Being pesticide certified will allow me to do more and increase my knowledge of safety in this area. My long term goal here is to also become certified and licensed in fumigation; something we do frequently in the greenhouses.

IV. Skills and Activities (continued)

NURSERY OPERATIONS

A. Skills (continued)

(25)

List your top six placement skills and give a brief description of each one and its contribution to the success of your supervised agricultural experience program.

4.Skill Number Four.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I am able to identify a majority of insect and disease problems at work.	On the job training at work and in agriculture class.	109 hours

Description of Skill:

This is crucial as I work among the plants. Any problems are reported immediately so they can be treated. Delayed treatment can result in tremendous amounts of damage, some of which is very costly. All incoming stock is checked before going for sale or being replanted in the growing beds. I took my pesticide certification course so that I can treat many of these problems myself. The license will be valuable to me at work and at home by allowing me to treat problems without assistance and to keep my parents, and eventually, my own lawn in good shape.

I have learned a lot about threshold levels and I understand the importance of treating only when that level is reached. Treating at the threshold level allows us to save money on sprays and lessen the effect on the environment.

5. Skill Number Five.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I interact with customers in the yard and store and promote good relations for our company.	On the job training and in the agriculture classroom.	146 hours

Description of Skill:

Doing this allows me to answer questions customers have regarding growing habits, pruning, and watering/fertilizing questions. Many people who have questions are totally unaware of how plants grow or how to take care of them. Being able to answer questions allows me to make customers more comfortable with their plant selections. It also promotes sales if customers feel comfortable with their plant selections. Many of our customers are repeat customers and part of the reason they come back is that they were satisfied with both the plants they received and the customer service given to them regarding their questions. In addition to answering all questions from customers on the sales floor or in the garden center, I also send them a list of good practices for each plant species that we sell.

6. Skill Number Six.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I assist with making labels for some nursery stock and for other nursery stock, I make all the labels.	From working with my father and the nursery department foreman.	77 hours

Description of Skill:

All nursery stock is tagged for identification. We have a nursery computer program which allows us to make labels for all nursery stock. Labels vary in shape with wrap arounds used for most trees and stick labels used for such things as irises and lillies. All plastic wrap around labels are coded for species. In accessing our database, I can make corrections to label information data and change the printing on the label as it is printed. When in the labeling room, I work primarily with stick labels, and not the wrap arounds used for all perennials. As the database changes and we add new plants, I must sometimes delete species no longer offered so we don't use excess space on the computer with old information. Our labeling is the basis for our inventory control. The computer check out system scans the label and we can keep a running total on plant species sold. This lets us dig more from the fields or order more of those we do not carry.

IV. Skills and Activities (continued)

NURSERY OPERATIONS

B. Activities

(25)

List your top three placement activities and give a brief description of each one and its contribution to the success of your supervised agricultural experience program.

1. Activity Number One.

Year	Activity	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I dig shrubs in the fall for the coolers and also dig bare root perennials as well as do B & B (balled and burlapped) evergreens and/or potted perennials and evergreens.	On the job training from my supervisor.	279 hours

Description of Activity:

This activity provides the perennials and trees that we sell in the spring and fall. We have special equipment attached to the tractors for digging bare root trees. These are dug when dormant in the fall and placed in the cooler. Some bare root trees are dug in early spring as demand dictates. All evergreens, such as yews, are dug and placed in pots or balled and burlapped. We store most all of the potted evergreens in our lathe houses. This reduces sun scald and provides us with healthy looking plants. Healthy plants increases survival rates for customers and helps us be able to have large numbers of shrubs dug ahead for the busy sales time.

2. Activity Number Two.

Year	Activity	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I worked in the propagation of perennials.	On the job training and in the agriculture classroom.	463 hours

Description of Activity:

Part if my summer deals with propagating perennials. I assist in taking cuttings from selected plants in town or at the nursery and then help stick them in our sand bed. I water frequently and also use the misting water equipment to keep the plants fresh and the roots actively growing. A lack of moisture lets the cuttings transpire to much and lowers the success rate. Cuttings taken from around town are from people who have grown good examples of what we offer in the catalog. Many of the pictures in the catalog are taken in Anywhere. The catalog is mail to over 4,000,000 homes and features a section on perennials. Our success rating in the perennial cuttings averages about eighty percent.

3. Activity Number Three.

Year	Activity	Where Attained	Student Hours
1999-2003	I am familiar with the irrigation system at Jung's.	On the job training by working with my supervisor.	224 hours

Description of Activity:

Irrigation is crucial to the success rate of many of Anywhere's plantings. Plantings needing irrigation the most include rooted perennials and bare root trees which don't sell and are replanted for sale the next spring. If moisture is not available, the new cuttings or trees die and losses can become heavy. The irrigation system has its own well and a fresh supply of water is kept in a pond on the property. The ponded water is so plants don't recieve a cold shock when watered. With pipes, we pump from the pond and irrigate all plantings with air temperature water. I have helped move and reassemble all irrigation pipes at Anywhere. Additionally, along with several other summer crew members, I have helped install a trickle irrigation system for our potted perennials. It has saved on our water expenses and increased plant survival rates.

V. Supporting Documentation

NURSERY OPERATIONS

A. Resume'

(6)

Attach a one or two page resume' that includes the following sections:

- a. Name/address/phone number/FFA chapter
- b. Career objective
- c. Education
- d. FFA leadership activities /awards
- e. School leadership activities/awards
- f. Community leadership activities/awards
- g. Professional associations
- h. Other accomplishments
- i. References

B. Employer or Instructor's Statement

(2)

The applicant's most recent employer or agriculture instructor should evaluate and submit a maximum of one page report of the progress the student has made in developing the skills and competencies necessary for success in:

NURSERY OPERATIONS

C. Supporting Pictures

(10)

Submit a maximum of six photographs, no larger than 3 1/2" x 5" or 4"x 6", with a brief caption (50 words or less) for each. (The National FFA Organization reserves the right to retain and use the photographs for publicity purposes.)

D. Personal Page

(2)

Attach one page of additional information, of your choice, supporting your application for this area. (i.e.. Newspaper clippings, additional statements from employer, student work, etc.)

Checklist for Agricultural Placement Proficiency Applications

Award Area: NURSERY OPERATIONS

Name: Marcus J. Zondag

Local Advisor	State Advisor	Circle "Y" if the Statement is "YES" and "N" if the Statement is "NO".
Y N	Y N	1. Applicant has been an active FFA member for each year covered by this application. Cover page, Line 20 . (Please consult the local & state copy of membership roster for each year.)
Y N	Y N	2. Applicant has included his/her Social Security Number, Cover page, Line 5 .
Y N	Y N	3. Applicant has been out of high school for no more than one year. Cover page, Line 19 .
Y N	Y N	4. Applicant has graduated and has completed at least three full years of agriculture, or all of the agriculture offered at the school last attended, Cover page, Line 16 . Note: Applicants that are still in high school at the time of applying are eligible to participate at all grade levels.
Y N	Y N	5. Applicant has in operation and has maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which exhibits comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise, Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.
Y N	Y N	6. The total hours that a student list on Page 4, Section II, are greater than or equal or equal to the hours listed in either the "Skills" portion of Section IV. Pages 6 and 7 or the "Activities" portion of Section IV. Page 8.
Y N	Y N	7. Applicant has included no more than a two page resume.
Y N	Y N	8. Applicant has included no more than a one page written evaluation by the most recent employer or agriculture instructor describing the progress that the applicant has made in developing the skills and competencies necessary for success within the award area in which they are applying.
Y N	Y N	9. Applicant has included a maximum of six photographs with captions containing less than 50 words each.
Y N	Y N	10. Applicant has included a maximum of one page (maximum size 8 1/2" x 11") of additional information. (This may NOT include the following: Video Tapes; Computer Disk; Cd ROM's; DVD's; etc.)
Y N	Y N	11. The Application is properly signed by the applicant, parent or guardian, chapter advisor, school superintendent or principal, and submitted to the State FFA Advisor.

RESUME

Marcus J. Zondag

315 Anywhere Street
Anywhere, Wisconsin 55555
(555) 555-1111
Anywhere FFA

Career Objective:

My career objective is to be the store manager for one of our satellite stores. I would also like to be a major shareholder in the company.

Education:

I have attended Anywhere High School during the past 12 years.

1991 – 1992 Anywhere Kindergarten
1992 - 1997 Anywhere Elementary School
1997 – 2000 Anywhere Middle School
2000 – NOW Anywhere High School

I am currently a senior. I will graduate in May of 2004. Agriculture classes I have taken include Agriculture Survey, Horticulture, Agriculture Leadership and Farm and Business Management. I will be attending a four year college after I graduate majoring in Business.

FFA Leadership Activities/Awards

2003 – 2004 Parliamentarian
2000 – 2003 FFA Fruit Sale
2000 – 2003 FFA Week Activities
2000 – 2003 FFA Week Newsletter
2001 – 2003 FFA Banquet
2000 – 2003 FFA Scholarship Raffle
2002 – 2003 National FFA Convention
2002 Leadership Workshop – National FFA Convention
2000 – 2003 World Dairy Expo
2002 State FFA Convention
2000 – 2003 Tractor Raffle
2002 – 2003 National Ag Day/Food for America
2002 FFA Toy Show
2003 Half – Time Leadership Conference
2000 – 2003 Member, Student Development – Agriculture Career Skills
2000 – 2003 Member, Community Development – Economic Activities
2001 – 2002 Member, Chapter Development – Support Group Activities
2002 – 2003 Member Community Development – Agriculture Awareness
2003 – 2004 Member, Chapter Development – Supporting Group Activities
2003 – 2004 Chair, Student Development – Scholarship Activities
2000 – 2004 Local Proficiency – Nursery Operations
2003 State Proficiency – Nursery Operations 3rd Gold
2004 State Proficiency Applicant – Nursery Operations
2003 – 2004 State FFA Degree – Applicant

School Leadership Activities

2000 – 2003 Homecoming Committee
2002 – 2003 Prom Committee
2000 – 2003 Concessions
2000 – 2004 Basketball

Community Leadership Activities/Awards

1999 – 2003 Church Youth Group
1991 – 1999 Sunday School

Professional Associations

Member, Anywhere FFA Chapter
Member, Wisconsin Association of FFA
Member, National FFA Organization
Subscription, New Horizons FFA Magazine

Other Accomplishments:

At home, I do miscellaneous jobs that include mechanical work in my father's shop, as well as fieldwork.

References:

Keith Gundlach
Agriculture Instructor/FFA Advisor – Anywhere High School
110 Anywhere Drive
Anywhere, Wisconsin 55555
555-555-2222

Pastor Walter Goers
327 Anywhere Drive
Anywhere, Wisconsin 55555
555-555-2223

Robert Zondag
335 Anywhere Street
Anywhere, Wisconsin 55555
555-555-1111

B. Employer or Instructor's Statement

I am pleased to write a statement regarding the progress of Marcus Zondag in this proficiency area. Marcus has been employed at Anywhere Seed Company since before he began Agriculture classes.

At this time, Marcus has a goal of managing one of the Anywhere Seed Company outlet stores. They are building a new store in Over There this year and his goal is to manage that store some day.

Marcus is proficient in nearly all areas of the nursery. He is skilled in propagation, handling perennial sales floor transactions, can identify nursery plants as well as disease and insect problems, knows how to prune, and is able to work in the retail store if needed. Marcus is also able to do some computer sales work involving direct orders or orders sent in by mail.

Personally, I find Marcus to be a polite young man with a developing sense of humor, but still serious about his goals and his school work. He is expanding his abilities in all areas and is well liked by his peers and the teaching staff. I admire his work ethic and his ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously.

I strongly recommend Marcus for recognition in this proficiency area.

Keith Gundlach

Keith Gundlach
Anywhere FFA Advisor

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (continued)

C. Supporting Pictures

Marcus J. Zondag

NURSERY OPERATIONS

PHOTO # 1



I operate both the outside irrigation system and our inside misting irrigation system. The misting system on the propagation benches lessens transpiration and increases rooting success and cutting survival rates for our perennials. Rooted perennials go into pots or directly into the fields for growing.

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (continued)

C. Supporting Pictures

Marcus J. Zondag

NURSERY OPERATIONS

PHOTO # 2



Taking inventory and stocking shelves is part of my work in the garden center at the nursery. Our sales registers take care of total sales so bulk ordering can be done, but daily inventory of shelves is done so they can be stocked and don't sit empty.

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (continued)

C. Supporting Pictures

Marcus J. Zondag

NURSERY OPERATIONS

PHOTO # 3



I stock bins on the perennial sales floor. Perennials are brought up from the coolers as needed and packed with wet sphagnum moss. Customers have a wider selection to choose from and full bins increase sales. All perennials have tags indicating their name and catalog reference.

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (continued)

C. Supporting Pictures

Marcus J. Zondag

NURSERY OPERATIONS

PHOTO # 4



Work in the coolers involves stacking perennials dug in the fall after dormancy begins. They are stacked in bins and each is labeled. Sphagnum moss keeps the roots moist and they remain dormant all winter. Coolers are in the basement which saves energy costs.

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (continued)

C. Supporting Pictures

Marcus J. Zondag

NURSERY OPERATIONS

PHOTO # 5



I spend a lot of time after school and on Saturdays at the warehouse packaging seed. Bags are printed for us by a company who does much of our catalog printing. Seeds are weighed and a measuring cup that fits the proper weight is selected to fill each bag.

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (continued)

C. Supporting Pictures

Marcus J. Zondag

NURSERY OPERATIONS

PHOTO # 6



I do some computer data entry at night. I handle mail order sheets by putting the data into the computer and generating a packing list and an invoice. Orders are filled from the packing list and the invoice is either enclosed or sent separately by first class mail.

D. PERSONAL PAGE

CANDIDATE'S CURRENT SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE PROFICIENCY AGREEMENT: MARCUS ZONDAG & ANYWHERE SEED COMPANY

1. Marcus Zondag shall be employed by Anywhere Seed Company while a student under the following conditions:
 - a. Paid wages shall be set at \$6.20 per hour and be reviewed once each spring.
 - b. Marcus Zondag shall be assigned to work where most needed and be accountable for his duties to the supervisor he is working under.
 - c. Marcus Zondag shall not be entitled to benefits while working as a part-time employee while in school.
 - d. Marcus Zondag shall work the hours assigned him by Anywhere Seed Company and follow all company rules and regulations.
2. Duties assigned to Marcus Zondag shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - a. Working with the propagation crew taking cuttings.
 - b. Hoeing young nursery stock.
 - c. Digging nursery stock in the fall for the coolers.
 - d. Replanting unsold nursery stock from the coolers each spring after the sales season.
 - e. Irrigation work as assigned.
 - f. General maintenance and care of grounds and equipment.
 - g. Other areas of nursery work as needed.
3. Marcus Zondag shall be able to apply for full-time work once school is completed.

Scott Syens

Supervisor, Anywhere Seed Company

Marcus Zondag

Marcus Zondag
Employee, Anywhere Seed
Company